Cashing in on history ... Two researchers of the **John F. Kennedy** assassination are urging a federal court to stop the son of the late **Abraham Zapruder** from selling the right to show his father's famous film footage of the slaying.

A suit filed Thursday in U.S. District Court argues that **Henry G. Zapruder,** a Washington tax lawyer, should not have a copyright claim to the 8mm film that captured for history the shooting of Kennedy 25 years ago in Dallas' Dealey Plaza.

"It's a historical event, and it's far too important to American history to allow its use to be dictated by a copyright owner who has shown no sensitivity for its importance and for the uses which scholars and writers want to make of it," said James H. Lesar, an attorney and vice president of the Assassination Archives, a private research group.

Zapruder declined to answer specific questions about the suit, but

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said the family only charges people who use the film for commercial purposes.

"We make the film available free of charge to anyone who is not going to use it for commercial purposes, and we've been doing that for years," he said. "We do that because we think it's the right thing to do. People who are going to charge, we charge."

The elder Zapruder, a dress manufacturer who died in 1970, had sold the film to Life magazine for $150,000 shortly after the assassination. Life featured dramatic frames from the footage in a special issue following the slaying.

In 1975, Time Inc. sold the film back to the Zapruder family for $1.

The original 8mm film is in storage at the National Archives, but the Zapruder family retains exclusive rights to the film's use and copies. Henry Zapruder, according to the suit, has been charging up to $30,000 for the right to use the film footage.